

# Volunteer Hours

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**BEGINNING IN 2014** all community garden plot stewards are strongly encouraged to volunteer eight hours each season to tend to the garden beyond their own plot. You might consider attending a work party, helping with food bank harvests or a seasonal party, adopting a compost bin or Giving Garden bed, straightening up some corner of the garden or shed...the possibilities are endless!

Below are options to consider. If you have ideas don't hesitate to let us know what you'd like to do. Once you identify your niche, **please let your Site Leadership Team know in advance**, and don't forget to record your hours in the **Volunteer Handbook** located in the garden shed.

## **Adopt a Giving Garden Bed**

The Giving Garden at Twin Ponds has three large gardens, split into 17 beds, totaling about 1,400 square feet run by volunteers who donate the produce to the local Food Bank. Adopt one bed (*'Even Sunset Gardeners!'*) for the growing season, being primarily responsible for planting, watering, weeding and assisting with harvests. No experience or knowledge required. This is probably 1-3 hours a week. The **Site Leadership Team** will give you a detailed orientation and assistance whenever you need it.

## **Adopt a Compost Bin**

Composting at Twin Ponds requires the "hot composting" method, which means weekly turning and mixing. This will likely require 1 hour a week.

## **Be a Garden Monitor**

No badges or uniforms. Tour the garden once a month to look for plots or common areas that need attention. Communicate what you see to the City staff who makes the decision if action is necessary and will follow up with the plot steward or site leadership. This is an important position.

## **Serve on the Site Leadership Team**

What a fun way to make a difference in your community! We need team players who want to provide leadership and oversight to the gardens. You'll be in for a treat if you get on board this train. **Contact City staff for an application** at [pks@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:pks@shorelinewa.gov) or phone (206) 801-2602.

## **Weed the Common Areas of the Garden**

Our commitment to organic gardening means we don't use chemicals to spray pesky weeds. This takes a little more time, energy, and many hands. If you take pride in weed-free paths and borders let your **Site Leadership Team** know that you've got this one covered.

## **Attend or Lead a Work Party**

Site Leadership Teams schedule work parties and social gatherings. If you like to plan, use tools, or create fliers, let your **Site Leadership Team** know. Even if you don't help we *sincerely* hope you participate at social gatherings. They put the "*community*" in community gardens.

## **Teach a Class**

Do you have some particular area of expertise related to organic gardening that you'd be willing to share? Are you good at facilitating conversations and sharing information?

## **Be a Garden Mentor**

At Twin Ponds, each new plot steward is assigned a mentor, a plot steward who has been with the garden for one year and has good organic gardening experience. This is because lifelong gardeners may not have experience with organic gardening. Other gardens have different rules and resources. Most importantly, however, the mentor is a face and name the new gardener knows, making it easier to know other gardeners.